

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051386

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, UK

SUBJECT: MARCH 16-18 CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: A) ANKARA 1558, B) TEHRAN 2043

1. ON MARCH 1, DEPTOFF (MORRISON) MET WITH BRITISH
EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY (MUIR) TO DISCUSS COORDINATION
FOR UPCOMING MARCH 16-18 CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING
IN WASHINGTON. DEPTOFF INFORMED MUIR OF CONTENT REFTELS
AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KNOWING IF UK REPORTING OF
RECENT IRANIAN POSITIONS ON CENTO ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED
ANY CHANGE IN IRAN'S PARTICIPATION IN CENTO ACTIVITIES
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WHICH MIGHT IMPACT ON UPCOMING CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

MEETING

2. DEPTOFF ADVISED MUIR THAT U.S. POSITION FOR HANDLING CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING STILL IN PRELIMINARY STAGE OF CONSIDERATION WITHIN USG. HOWEVER, IT WAS LIKELY THAT USG WOULD WISH TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH IRAN OR OTHER REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES OVER ORGANIZATIONAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES TO BE DEALT WITH IN COURSE OF UPCOMING ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING.

3. SPECIFICALLY, ALTHOUGH USG IS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS OF CENTO SECRETARIAT (E.G., BY PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF U.S. SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR TO SECRETARIAT) AND SHARPENING FOCUS OF CENTO PRIORITIES (E.G., BY IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION A-TYPE CHANGES), DEPTOFF DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT WE WOULD PRESS IRAN OR OTHER MEMBERS TO CREATE NEW AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR POSITION OR TO ADOPT WELL-DEFINED SET OF PRIORITIES ON BASIS OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY U.S. AND BRITISH CONSULTANTS. MORE LIKELY APPROACH WAS U.S. INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO MAKE AVAILABLE WELL-QUALIFIED U.S.-FUNDED AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR TO FILL EITHER PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR POSITION WITHIN CENTO SECRETARIAT. AS TO PROGRAM PRIORITIES, PIECE MEAL USE OF WORK DONE BY CONSULTANTS MIGHT BE THE MAXIMUM TO BE EXPECTED GIVEN APPARENT IRANIAN OPPOSITION TO FORMAL IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION A.

4. DEPTOFF EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DETERMINING WHETHER UK POSITION ON PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY TO CENTO EXPRESSED AT RECENT STEERING GROUP MEETING IN ANKARA INDICATED FIRM DECISION THAT POSITION WOULD NOT BE FILLED BY UK UNLESS ESTABLISHED AS PERMANENT PART OF CENTO SECRETARIAT STAFF.

5. MUIR INDICATED THAT BRITISH EMBASSY NOT RPT NOT ACQUAINTED WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES. HE INDICATED INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY DEPTOFF WOULD BE CONVEYED TO FCO WITH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING ANY PROBLEMS UK MAY FORESEE WITH RESPECT TO UPCOMING MEETING. HE ALSO
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AGREED TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF UK POSITION CONCERNING UK DETAIL OF SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY TO CENTO SECRETARIAT.

6. EMBASSY REQUESTED APPROACH APPROPRIATE UK OFFICIALS WITH VIEW TO ASSURING APPROPRIATE COORDINATION OF U.S. AND UK SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING. INGERSOLL

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